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+NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON - THE SWIFT APPOINTMENT OF A CAREER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TO REPLACE RETIRING CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOBBY RAY INMAN HAS EASED CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HANDLING OF THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS.

BUT SOME KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THEY WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED NOTHING LESS THAN A NON-POLITICAL PROFESSIONAL FOR THE POST, STRONGLY IMPLYING THEY REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM J. CASEY'S LEADERSHIP OF THE NATION'S WORLDWIDE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK.

WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THAT INMAN - A FOUR-STAR ADMIRAL WITH 30 YEARS OF INTELLIGENCE EXPERIENCE - WAS LEAVING THE CIA AND RETIRING FROM THE NAVY, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES IMMEDIATELY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN.

SEN. RICHARD G. LUGAR, R-IND., A MEMBER OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE AND A CLOSE ALLY OF PRESIDENT REAGAN, CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE "TO SEND SOME SIGNALS" TO THE WHITE HOUSE THAT CONGRESS WANTED TO BE CONSULTED ON A REPLACEMENT BECAUSE INMAN'S DEPARTURE HAD CREATED "A RATHER TRAUMATIC SITUATION" AT THE CIA.

REAGAN'S MONDAY ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS SELECTION OF 31-YEAR CIA VETERAN JOHN N. MCMAHON TO REPLACE INMAN HAS WON WIDESPREAD PRAISE ON CAPITOL HILL BECAUSE OF MCMAHON'S EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM.

BUT CAPITOL HILL REACTION TO MCMAHON'S APPOINTMENT POINTEDLY INDICATED THAT DISPLEASURE WITH CASEY'S LEADERSHIP HADN'T ENTIRELY BEEN ASSUAGED.

TYPICAL OF STATEMENTS BY SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WAS A COMMENT BY SEN. DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN, D-N.Y., THAT "MR. MCMAHON WAS THE ONLY - AND I REPEAT, ONLY - APPOINTMENT I WOULD HAVE FOUND ACCEPTABLE."

MOYNIHAN TOLD THE NEW YORK TIMES, "THE (SENATE INTELLIGENCE) COMMITTEE LOOKED WITH EXTRA RELIANCE ON ADM. INMAN BECAUSE HE WAS A NON-POLITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

"FRANKLY," MOYNIHAN SAID, "WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT SOMEONE EITHER FROM THE POLITICAL WORLD OR THE MILITARY WORLD WHO HAD NO REAL INTELLIGENCE EXPERIENCE."

LACK OF INTELLIGENCE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THE MAJOR CONCERN IN CONGRESS ABOUT CASEY. THOUGH HE SERVED IN THE WORLD WAR II OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (THE CIA'S PREDECESSOR), CASEY NEVER HAD DEALT WITH MODERN ELECTRONIC SPYING BEFORE BEING NAMED CIA DIRECTOR BY REAGAN. HE HAD BEEN REAGAN'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER IN THE 1980 ELECTION.

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